

## Jermain Wesley Loguen was Syracuse 'stationmaster' on the Underground Railroad

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By **The Post-Standard**

Once hailed as the "Underground Railroad King," Jermain Wesley Loguen was born Feb. 5, 1813, into slavery in Davidson County, Tenn.

Known then as "Jarm Logue," he was the son of David Logue, his white master, and an enslaved woman named Cherry.

He escaped in 1834. He attended **Beriah Green's** abolitionist school in Whitesboro. He married Caroline Storum in 1840. They had six children, one of whom (Amelia) married Lewis Douglass, the son of Frederick Douglass.

The Loguens moved to Syracuse in 1841. Jermain taught school and became a licensed preacher of the **African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**, serving congregations in Syracuse, Barth, Ithaca, and Troy. He was as much an abolitionist activist as a minister and became one of the nation's most active agents of the **Underground Railroad**. The Loguen house near **Pine and Genesee streets** was a principal station on the Underground Railroad. Loguen is said to have aided more than 1,500 freedom seekers.

Perhaps the most celebrated case in which Loguen was involved took place on Oct. 1, 1851. A runaway by the name of **William Henry** was arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. Loguen joined a committee of abolitionists, black and white, that rescued Henry (known as "Jerry") and assisted him in escaping to Canada.



Courtesy of OHA

This photograph of Jermain Loguen, sometimes called Syracuse's Underground Railroad "stationmaster," is in the collection of the **Onondaga Historical Association**.

Loguen died in 1872 and is buried in **Oakwood Cemetery**, Syracuse.

*This story was adapted from material written by Milton C. Sernett for the **National Abolition Hall of Fame** in Peterboro. It is part of The Post-Standard's 2012 observance of **Black History Month**. This year coincides with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The Post-Standard observes the month with accounts of Central New York's African-Americans who lived in the Civil War era, especially those who risked their lives as abolitionists and those who fought for the Union.*

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